GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1392
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
POLLUTION BY THERMAL POWER PLANTS
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power plants are causing pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the power plants which are causing pollution;

(c) the details of the funds allocated/spent so far by the Government to check pollution during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the pollution emitting from these power plants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): The coal based thermal power plants emit dust and sulphur dioxide and may result in pollution if such power plants do not install air pollution control devices.Out of 89 thermal power plants, 22 are not complying with the prescribed standards.The names of these power plants are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): The Ministry is not providing any funds for the power plants.The steps taken by the Government to check pollution from the power plants include:

(i) Regular inspection and monitoring of the Power Plants by the Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Boards.

(ii) Issuing of notification dated 19-9-1997 recommending the Power Plants to use beneficiated coal(ash not more 34%) located beyond 1000 km. from pithead and power plants located in critically polluted areas and in ecologically sensitive areas.

(iii) Issuing of Notification dated 14.9.1999 recommending utilization of fly ash from coal and lignite based thermal power plants.

(iv) Notifying standards for Thermal Power Plants under Environment (Protection) Act,1986.

(v) Formulation of a Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) for the Thermal Power Plants seeking commitment and voluntary initiatives of the industry to comply with the regulatory norms for prevention and control of pollution.